



**Minutes of the January 28, 2004 Meeting of the
Commission on Men's Health
1:00 p.m. - Atlanta, Georgia**

Members Attending:

William M. Harper, M.D., Chairman
James Bennett, M.D.
Charles Braucher, Ph.D.
Teresa Clark, M.D.
Representative Carl Von Epps
Stuart Fors, Ed.D.
M. Ramzy Hajmurad, M.D.
Ecleamus Ricks, M.P.H.
Senator Don Thomas
James W. Couch, Chief, Health Improvement Programs, DCH

Members Absent:

Representative Buddy Childers, Vice-Chairman

The Georgia Commission on Men's Health (CMH) held its quarterly meeting on January 28, 2004, at the Department of Community Health (DCH) in Atlanta, Georgia. Chairman Harper presided over the meeting and called it to order at 1:04 p.m. A copy of the Agenda and List of Attendees are attached hereto and made official parts of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2.

After the Minutes of the October 22, 2003, Commission on Men's Health (CMH) meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED, Chairman Harper asked James Couch to give the *Director's Report*.

Mr. Couch began his report by informing members that he, Dr. James Bennett and DCH's General Counsel met to discuss the CHAMPS issue to try and bring it to resolution. Stating that the meeting was a successful one, he deferred details to Dr. Bennett to update the Commission. Mr. Couch went on to discuss the budget as it relates to the Commission on Men's Health, stating that the Commission along with the other Health Improvement Programs (HIP), is projected to take a \$121,000 reduction, to be debated and discussed during the legislative session. More information would be presented to members as it becomes available. Mr. Couch attended the Georgia Cancer Coalition's meeting and reported that they have substantial research monies for prostate and breast cancer and suggested that the Commission explore ways to collaborate with them. Chairman Harper stated he would follow up on his suggestion.

Mr. Couch also suggested that the members work on the logistics for the upcoming men's health symposium sponsored by the Commission. He also stated that there were a couple of interested pharmaceutical companies willing to participate in the symposium. Dr. Harper stated that progress has been made and asked Sean Johnson, with the Department of Human Resources, to update the

Commission on the status of his work and their last meeting regarding the symposium. Mr. Johnson informed members that there has been some progress made relative to the logistics of the symposium. Various sites have been contacted to host the symposium. He is currently comparing the potential sites for accommodations and cost. Future meetings will be scheduled to update members on the planning and they will be informed at the next meeting.

Dr. James Bennett was asked to update members on his meeting with DCH's General Counsel and Mr. Couch regarding the registration of CHAMPS. He stated that those in attendance discussed 1) establishing a checking account assigned specifically to CHAMPS for purposes of depositing and withdrawing funds relative to CHAMPS; 2) registering the name CHAMPS under DCH/CMH; 3) finalizing an agreement between the Commission and CHAMPS detailing the purpose of CHAMPS and its proposed activities; and 4) obtaining a Federal Employment Identification (FEI) number for donating funds to the support of CHAMPS and its activities. Dr. Bennett felt that it was a very productive meeting and that he looks forward to its resolution. The General Counsel's office is further researching the requests of the Commission with the Attorney General's office. Chairman Harper asked if the Commission would be able to access these "CHAMPS" funds for CMH activities as well? Mr. Couch replied, "yes".

Mr. Couch continued his executive director's report by informing members of upcoming health fair events sponsored by various organizations, advocacy groups, schools, etc. across the state.

Following Mr. Couch's report, Dr. Harper motioned the approval of the October 22, 2003 CMH minutes. Representative Carl Von Epps seconded the motion and members voted. The minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED. Dr. Harper called for committee reports.

Senator Don Thomas informed members of a bill he introduced to the legislature banning smoking in all public buildings, restaurants, and all enclosed structures in the state. He has a great deal of support for the bill and will keep members abreast of the outcome.

Chairman Harper stated he had an email from West Central Georgia Regional Programs and that there will be no money set aside in the current budget of the Georgia Cancer Coalition (GCC) for the regional programs of excellence and the centers for excellence and informed and encouraged Commission members to assist in any way that they can to help fund the GCC budget to include a line item for the regional programs.

Chairman Harper asked for members to come up with recommendations of key people in their local areas to invite to the men's health symposium and forward to Lynn. He will also ask his assistant, Heather, to forward his draft outline to members for their comments.

Dr. Stu Fors updated members on the **Collaborative Partnership Committee**. He stated that the partners were utilizing the Commission office and collaborative partner list to communicate with other partners to promote and bring awareness to various healthcare events around the state.

For the **Public Information and Education Committee** report, Mr. Eccleamus Ricks stated that the men's health pocket guide should be ready in the next few weeks. No other reports were given.

The next Commission on Men's Health meeting was tentatively set for April 28, 2004. Lynn will inform members of a confirmed date.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.